

MODIS Technical Team Meeting
Thursday, May 31, 2001
3:00 PM

Vince Salomonson chaired the meeting. Present were Eric Vermote, Bill Barnes, Dorothy Hall, Jack Xiong, Sol Broder, Steve Kempner, Wayne Esaias, Ken Anderson, and Barbara Conboy, with Rebecca Lindsey taking the minutes.

1.0 Schedule of Upcoming Events

- GES DAAC User Working Group Meeting June 14-15
- MODIS Science Team Meeting September 24-26, 2001
 Location: TBD
- ESIP Federation Meeting July 24-26, 2001
 University of North Dakota, Grand Forks

2.0 Meeting Minutes

2.1 Instrument Update

Barnes reported that Anderson is working on the FM1 Band 1 and 2 gain change issue, and that a meeting of engineers will be held early next week. Anderson is also talking about going to Santa Barbara to talk with SBRS.

Salomonson reported that with respect to the deep space maneuver, there are discussions continuing. Jon Ranson has visited in Japan and assured them that he will take responsibility for the results of the Deep Space Maneuver. It is clear that a complete pitch maneuver is appropriate because CERES can only achieve what it needs with that approach.

Salomonson indicated that he would send out an email summarizing the current knowledge of the solid state recorder issue. Anderson reported that they are getting around the problem with increased TDRSS contacts, and that there are some long-term solutions in the works. However, he was unaware at this time what the probable cause is of the problem.

2.2 MCST

Barnes reported that MCST had sent the wrong consistent-year LUTs to the DAAC. The oceans team had reported in the PIP meeting on Wednesday, May 30th, that they had discovered there was a difference in the LUTs sent to Miami and those that were running at the DAAC. (The LUTs had been sent early to Miami to speed up the development of their own consistent-year LUTs.)

Although the DAAC has been using the incorrect LUTS for processing the SAFARI granules, that time period would not be affected by those (incorrect) LUTs. The correct ones have been delivered to the DAAC, and they are getting into operations.

Xiong and Barnes reported that MCST had put off the heater test they were planning when the SSR problem came up, and that they are again planning to do that test as well as a Vdet sweep. They will probably run the heater for a full orbit, and it might change the noise spectrum for that orbit slightly.

2.3 Reprocessing/Consistent-year Update

Salomonson stated that Robert Wolfe had sent around an email describing the current plan for beginning the consistent-year processing. The current plan is for the DAAC to begin the Collection 3, forward-processing stream with day 144 (June 12th) and to begin the retrospective processing stream with day 64. MODAPS will keep in step with the DAAC for the retrospective stream, and will lag the DAAC by about two weeks on the forward processing stream, to allow for hiccups in the delivery of data from EDOS. Salomonson asked if everyone was comfortable with the approach, and everyone agreed.

On a related topic, Salomonson read excerpts from the EDC DAAC's annual report I that indicated some of their experiences regarding MODIS data product quality, data access, etc. Kempler suggested that the team review the EDC report for lessons and insights, and Salomonson indicated that he would get together with Kempler on the topic.

Kempler also suggested that it might be good when Salomonson and others get approached by people with complaints or issues with getting or using MODIS data, it might help to give them specific information about where to go for help. Esaias agreed, saying there is a difference between telling a user, "Contact DAAC User Services," and saying, "Here is Greg Leptoukh's number. Give him a call."

2.4 GES DAAC Update

Kempler reported that between the incorrect LUTs and the data delivery problems, the DAAC is just starting back into production. In addition they were down for a Sybase update. Kempler also passed around a "postcard" that the DAAC made for the AGU meeting, which would be used as "thank you" token for filling out their survey. Also, they have developed some more posters similar to what Greg Leptoukh had shown at a previous Tech Team Meeting.

Kempler reported that the DAAC is still trying to recover all the data that were lost during the week that the SSR was preventing proper data transmission. Broder reported an estimate he had heard for how much of the data would be unrecoverable, and that it was likely to be about one granule per orbit. Barnes said that sounded about right.

Salomonson informed Kempler of a tool that had been developed at the NSIDC DAAC that reprojects 250-m data and converts them to binary. Kempler wondered if the user does all the projection and conversion or if the DAAC does it for them. Salomonson didn't know, but he said he would send Kempler the information about the tool.

2.5 MODAPS Update

Broder reported that MODAPS' goal is to meet the Consistent Year processing target dates mentioned in the GDAAC report in Section 2.4 above. (Pending expected delivery of PGEs.)

2.6 Software Update

Salomonson reported that in the effort to push through the paperwork required for getting software released, Ed Masuoka needs releases filled out by each of the Science Team members. The MODIS PIs (Contractor and Civil Servant) have been sent the Disclosure of Invention and New Technology (Including Software) forms to be filled out and returned by June 15, 2001.

Salomonson indicated that he is struggling with various entities at GSFC to get some more streamlined way to handle this matter, but so far he has not made positive progress. He has been hoping that some statement could be generated saying that no claims are being made to withhold the code based on copyright, intellectual property, patent rights, etc., and then one wouldn't have to fill out the forms. So far, this "solution" has not been found acceptable by the GSFC Patent Counsel Office, in particular. The wording in the contracts is sufficiently fuzzy to not help much.

2.7 General Discussion

Salomonson reported that Nancy Maynard wrote to say there is concern over the potential of a West Nile virus breakout in the U.S. and that George Serafino had given her a list of data products that could inform them on the issue, mainly things like temperature and humidity profiles such as those available from the Data Assimilation Office/modeling effort. Salomonson thought that perhaps full resolution MODIS Land Surface Temperature and Vegetation Indices might be useful as well.

Salomonson indicated that we could go ahead and make the dates for the next Science Team Meeting firm. The discipline and MCST breakouts will be on September 24th, and Plenary Sessions the 25th-26th.

Salomonson mentioned that Dr. Asrar has postponed his tour of MODAPS.

2.8 Oceans Update

Esaias reported that the Ocean Color Meeting in San Diego had gone well and that MODIS had been well represented, with presentations from Mark Abbot, Janet Campbell, Ken Carder, and himself. He said that there were plans to put all the presentations from the conference up on a Goddard web site. He also said that all MODIS-related presentations would be posted on the Oceans Team web site. Salomonson said that would be good, since there is now a "Presentations" section of the MODIS web site, which will make presentations available as well as point to presentations that exist elsewhere on the web.

He indicated that he had sent an email to Diane Wickland with copies to Ghassem Asrar and Jack Kaye about the availability of the presentations. Jack Kaye responded positively. Salomonson will send an e-mail to the Science Team to make sure they are aware of this approach and invite Team members to contribute or make available presentations for this site. As noted this would make the presentations available to HQ, and, perhaps, other interested parties thereby informing people of the good progress being made by MODIS and also indicating the level of effort being made by the MODIS Science Team to inform the Earth sciences community at-large of what can be done with or is available from MODIS.

Esaias reported that Miami is reporting great progress with SST for both the 4 μ m and the 11 and 12 μ m bands. They think have done a better job of clearing clouds than the cloud mask, and they are now collecting enough days to get a good composite.

Salomonson asked whether the Oceans team could get a "gee whiz" image of the new eddies that had been identified in the Mediterranean. It might be nice to get something like that for Dr. Asrar.

3.0 Action Items

3.1 Discipline leads to meet to resolve the issue of beta-release code and science-quality code, and what we need to say about it.

Status: Open.

3.2 Technical team to discuss further the issue of predicted ephemeris data and how to improve it.

Status: Open.